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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN
FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

Missoula, Montana

No. 30 October 25, 1943

Christmas Tree Production in Western Montana in 1942 a/

Western Montana's 1942 Christmas tree harvest yielded 2,203,750 trees. In 1941, 3,082,650 trees were produced; and in 1940, 2,338,350. In earlier years, the business of supplying Montana trees to outside markets was steadily growing, but prior to 1940 the largest cut reported in any year was less than 2,000,000 trees.

During the 1942 cutting season, as in former years, the principal producing areas were Lincoln County which contributed 1,001,200 trees, Flathead County with 953,250, and Missoula County with 105,250. The leading railroad shipping points were Eureka in Lincoln County and Kalispell in Flathead County from which 181 and 194 carloads, respectively, originated.

Practically all trees shipped from the State were Douglas-fir.

Most of the Montana trees are sold in the Middle West. Many carloads go to Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Akron, Cleveland and Cincinnati. Some trees are shipped as far east as Philadelphia. Destinations reported for all carloads shipped in 1942, via the Northern Pacific railroad, included cities in North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana and Texas.

In addition to the Christmas trees harvested in Flathead County, the manufacture of Christmas decorative articles in Kalispell utilized the following quantities of boughs and cones: 50 tons of Douglas-fir boughs; 3,000 white pine cones; 700 bushels of ponderosa pine cones; and 50,000 ponderosa pine clusters. This allied industry furnished employment for 45 people for a period of two months.

Further details concerning the origin of trees in western Montana are given in the attached table:

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a/ Prepared by C. N. Whitney, Division of Forest Products.

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Shipments of Christmas Trees from Western Montana in 1942

County	Railroad Shipments[1]								Truck[2] shipments	All[3] shipments
	Great Northern		Northern Pacific		C.M.St.P. & P.		Total			
	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Trees	Trees
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Flathead	195	926,250	-	-	-	-	195	926,250	27,000	953,250
Granite	-	-	1	6,050[4]	2	9,500	3	15,550	6,000	21,550
Lake	-	-	10	47,500	-	-	10	47,500	-	47,500
Lincoln	209	992,750	-	-	-	-	209	992,750	8,450	1,001,200
Missoula	-	-	7	33,250	12	57,000	19	90,250	15,000	105,250
Ravalli	-	-	3	14,250	-	-	3	14,250	6,000	20,250
Sanders	-	-	11	52,250	-	-	11	52,250	2,500	54,750
Total	404	1,919,000	32	153,300	14	66,500	450	2,138,800	64,950	2,203,750

1/ Origin of trees is as follows, by counties and shipping stations: Flathead County: Kalispell, 194 cars; Citadel, 1 car. Granite County: Drummond, 3 cars. Lake County: Polson, 4 cars; Ronan, 3 cars; Arlee, 3 cars. Lincoln County: Eureka, 181 cars; Libby, 26 cars; Fortine, 1 car; Rexford, 1 car. Missoula County: Missoula, 19 cars. Ravalli County: Darby, 3 cars. Sanders County: Plains, 11 cars.

2/ Truck shipments (64,950 trees) represent a compilation of estimates made by district rangers and supervisors of the Flathead, Kootenai, Lolo, Bitterroot, Cabinet and Deerlodge National Forests.

3/ Origin of the total production (2,203,750 trees) is approximately as follows: Montana State School of Forestry, Lubrecht Experimental Forest, 24,000 trees (1.1 percent); State of Montana forests, 88,860 trees (4.0 percent); national forests, 186,620 trees (8.5 percent); private lands, 1,904,270 trees (86.4 percent).

The 186,620 trees cut on national forests originated as follows: Bitterroot, 11,890 trees; Cabinet, 3,376 trees; Flathead, 9,160 trees; Kootenai, 161,550 trees; Lolo, 644 trees. The average stumpage price received for these trees was 3.6 cents each. The average price received by the State of Montana for trees cut from State forests was 4.2 cents each.

4/ Includes 320 bales (approximately 1,300 trees) shipped separately in less than carload lot.